

Bureau of Land Management
Policy and Guidelines for all Bureau Digital Spatial Data

Datum Policy

- All active Bureau Corporate digital spatial data will be in NAD 83* by October 1, 2004.
- All new databases and spatial systems will be collected and/or catalogued in NAD 83 upon signature of this policy.
- Datum and projection information will be Mandatory Elements of Spatial Metadata.
- Map projections utilized for Bureau databases must supported by commercial of-the-shelf (COTS) software.
- Exceptions to map projection/datum policy and guidelines must be approved by the Bureau or State Base Data Stewards.
- The Bureau will adapt to future changes in National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) managed by the National Geodetic Survey as they become FGDC National Standards.
- Datasets from Partners that are used within BLM must comply to this policy.
- This policy shall apply to all bureau active spatial data bases and systems.
- Inactive legacy systems and legacy hardcopy data are exempt from this policy.

Projection and Coordinate System Guidelines for National Datasets**

- Vector Data : Geographic Coordinate System (Decimal Degrees - Double Precision NAD 83)
- Raster and image data degrade significantly because of re-sampling when re-projected, therefore it should be stored in its "native" projection until time of use.
- Exceptions must be approved by the WO Base Data Steward.

State Level Projection and Coordinate System Guidelines**

- Geographic Coordinate System (Decimal Degrees - Double Precision NAD 83) or
- UTM Coordinate System in the appropriate Zone or
- Official State Legislated Map Projections.
- Raster and image data degrade significantly because of re-sampling when re-projected, therefore it should be stored in its "native" projection until time of use.
- Exceptions must be approved by the State Base Data Steward.

* NAD 83 epoch CORS should be used. Continuously operating reference stations (CORS) system benefits from a national multi-purpose cooperative endeavor involving many government, academic, commercial and private organizations coordinated and managed by the NGS (<http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/CORS/>).

**These standards and guidelines don't preclude offices from using special projections for specific analysis or plotting, but all long-term digital spatial data storage and archives must comply.